

ter exceeds that of the sustaining branch, which being overweighted, can no longer support the parasite except in a pendent position.—A. H. CURTISS, *Jacksonville, Florida*.

A CONVENIENT MICROSCOPE.—I have been so frequently consulted of late as to the best form of dissecting microscope for botanical purposes, that I am glad to be able to say our well-known Optician, Mr. Joseph Zentmeyer, of Philadelphia, has just constructed one that in all respects is what the analytical botanist requires. Mr. Zentmeyer needs no word of mine to commend his work. It is in the interest of botony that I write this.

The stand is round, of cast iron, and six inches in diameter. Hence the instrument is perfectly steady. The pillar supporting the stage is strong, of brass, and three inches high. Of just such a height that the hands holding the needles are free from tremor because the arms rest solidly on the table. The stage of brass is five inches long by nearly four wide, and *stationary*, thus contrasting most favorably with the old Raspail, and some of the later instruments. There is a glass plate nearly two inches in diameter in the middle of the stage, and abundant light is thrown on this from the mirror beneath. The arm carrying the lens is raised or lowered by a firm, and charmingly smooth working rack and pinion, which has a free lateral movement. A good lens magnifying about ten diameters completes this model instrument. Its advantages are: strength, neatness and a large steady stage, over all the cheaper instruments of this class, and it has all the good points of the finer dissecting microscopes at about half the cost. The glass plate in the stage may be removed and a watch glass put in, to contain any object we wish to examine in water, or an alcohol lamp placed under the stage will keep up the gentle heat we sometimes want in work.

The instrument as I have described it with a neat box, costs only fifteen dollars, and one dollar more would add an extra, higher-powered lens, thus making it equal to any work involved in analytical botany. Beside this, a tube might be added to screw into the arm carrying the lens, and thus at a very small additional expense the owner would have a compact, strong compound microscope that would do good field work with even a quarter or a fifth of an inch objective. For the botanical laboratories of Colleges it has no superior, when we consider economy and durability.—J. T. ROTHROCK.

MONOTROPA UNIFLORA.—Notwithstanding the pretty general distribution of this peculiar type of vegetation, its comparative numerical paucity in any region appears as rather a striking feature. In many hundreds of botanical walks we have found but one locality where this plant seems anyways abundant. This was in what is known as the "Beech and Oak Flats" of Jefferson county, Indiana. The timber is often quite dense, and the vegetable debris has often formed to quite a thickness by natural accumulation from year to year, and at the same time being aided by the presence of water except in the dryest seasons. Under such circumstances vegetable products of a fungus type are readily encouraged in growth. Here within the compass of a few square yards, and among the beech roots, we have secured as many as 50 fine specimens. However, in contemplating their beauty of form and delicacy of structure, we did not suspicion such a poisonous principle to lurk within as we have since found to be the case.

During the month of September a young lady brought me a plant which she said had poisoned her, and she desired its name. With some surprise, and perhaps I should have had none after considering its fostering food and close resemblance to the Fungi, I found the plant to be *Monotropa uniflora*. The circumstances of the case are as follows. The young lady while examining the plant accidentally crushed the stem, and some of the juice was driven upon her lips. The mucous portions which were somewhat chapped became very much irritated, and began to inflame and swell consider-

ably; while in two or three places upon the epidermal skin of the lip, small ulcerous sores were formed. The effect remained some four or five days and then gradually healed. The whole appearance was very much like a mild case of poisoning with *Rhus toxicodendron*.—A. H. Y., *LaFayette, Ind.*

COREOPSIS ARISTOSA, MICH.—It will be interesting to botanists to have published in the GAZETTE observations on the seeds and awns of *Coreopsis aristosa* from numerous localities, to ascertain if the awnless or upwardly or downwardly barbed awns are inherent in the species, or if their anomalous development is incidental and attributable to the introduction of *Bidens* in the species. Here where the species largely abounds the awnless with upwardly and downwardly barbed awns are relatively about equal in all the localities I have examined the past season, where *Bidens frondosa* is numerously mixed in with the growth, and also where no species of the genus now abounds, would seem to indicate that the trait is an inherent one. And thus invalidating the most important character separating the two genera. If the species is found to be normally awnless, as is quite probable, and the awns due to *Bidens*, the upward and downward barbs would still be a puzzle, unless it should turn out to be that both forms of barbs are common also to *Bidens*, which is already almost established in the case of *Coreopsis discoidea*, which is sometimes a perfect *Bidens frondosa* in all except the upwardly barbed awns. The allied species *Coreopsis trichosperma*, should also be examined for similar anomalies whereit abounds. The species is absent from this section. Observations are needed in localities where *Bidens* is absent, and in all habitats the relative proportion of the three forms should be noted.—E. HALL.

LATE FLOWERS.—I found the following list of plants still in flower on October 2d and 3d, in Exeter, R. I. It may possibly interest some western readers to see what are our late flowering eastern species. I have not classified the names, but have written them somewhat in the order in which the specimens were found. It will be noticed that some are early plants enjoying a second bloom:

<i>Viola cucullata.</i>	<i>Lobelia cardinalis.</i>
<i>Gerardia purpurea.</i>	<i>Trichostema dichotomum.</i>
“ <i>quercifolia.</i>	<i>Brunella vulgaris.</i>
<i>Solidago linoides.</i>	<i>Polygala cruciata.</i>
<i>cæsia.</i>	“ <i>sanguinea,</i>
<i>nemoralis.</i>	“ <i>verticillata.</i>
<i>elliptica.</i>	<i>Linaria Canadensis.</i>
<i>odora.</i>	<i>vulgaris.</i>
<i>Canadensis.</i>	<i>Pedicularis lanceolata.</i>
<i>bicolor.</i>	(new to Rhode Island.)
<i>Aster corymbosus.</i>	<i>Polygonum incarnatum.</i>
<i>Noræ Angliæ.</i>	“ <i>dumetorum.</i>
<i>lævis, var. cyaneus.</i>	“ <i>articulatum.</i>
<i>cordifolius.</i>	“ <i>arifolium.</i>
<i>longifolius.</i>	<i>Diplopappus linariifolius.</i>
<i>Tradescanti.</i>	“ <i>umbellatus.</i>
<i>multiflorus.</i>	<i>Spiranthes cernua.</i>
<i>dumosus.</i>	<i>Trifolium pratense.</i>
<i>undulatus.</i>	<i>arvense.</i>
<i>patens.</i>	<i>Potentilla argentea.</i>
<i>Gnaphalium polycephalum.</i>	<i>Nabalus Fraseri.</i>
<i>Antennaria margaritacea.</i>	<i>Hieracium Canadense.</i>
<i>Hypericum Sarothra.</i>	“ <i>venosum.</i>
<i>Oenothera biennis.</i>	<i>Lepidium Virginicum.</i>